

## Conversation with 52 year old white male and acquaintances, West Virginia (Transcription)

M8 B(4)

FW: Tell me some hunting stories, you guys go hunt all the time.

INF: No, I don't do much hunting.

FW: You don't?

INF: No.

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FW: Well, you'd always hunt together two years ago or sometime like.

INF: Yeah, but Bill's the hunter I just go along for the ride. I follow him around.

INF2: No, them was turkey's we was hunting. Have him to tell you about the turkeys  
Becky.

FW: The turkeys. What about the turkeys?

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INF: I don't know anything about them.

FW: Well somebody much know something.

INF2: That's what he's try to do, try to learn something about them.

INF: Just try to learn something about them.

FW: What do you mean?

INF: Well I've got a townsack full of callers up there and I don't know how to use any of them you see and I practice with them about two days a week.

FW: You any good now?

INF: No, I'm worse than I was when I started.

FW: I thought you were hunt all the time. You just went hunt down.

INF: Well I do. I go hunting but I don't kill nothing. There's a difference in hunting and killing.

FW: Well you don't have to kill something to have stories to tell about hunting, right?

INF: Oh, I've shot at a whole lot of things. Burnt up a whole lot of powder.

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FW: Have you always lived here? In this state I mean.

INF: All but about five years.

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FW: And where was that?

INF: Well, just here and there.

FW: Do you like West Virginia?

INF: Oh, yeah.

FW: You wouldn't want to move?

INF: I wouldn't live anywhere else.

FW: Is that right?

INF: No.

FW: Why is that?

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INF: Well, one thing you're not crowded. And then another thing people's fairly honest they haven't got the big city way of life yet. You have your friends. About twenty five percent of them you can believe what they tell you. And in the big cities well they don't have time to talk to you. Here you can get your shotgun, walk out the door and go hunting.

FW: Yeah.

INF: Big town you' got to drive fifty miles.

FW: Or further.

INF: Then shoot somebody's cow or something. Come back and say you killed a deer.

FW: Yeah, I guess you're right about that.

INF: Out in Tuckford County they were hunt one time and one of these city dudes was up there with about a two-hundred dollar outfit on, about a five-hundred dollar rifle, and snow on the ground. And he tracked a man's horse for two miles and shot it and thought he'd killed

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a deer.

FW: Did you see him?

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INF: Yeah.

FW: Oh, no what ever happened to him? Did anything happen to him?

INF: No, nothing happened to him, he eat the horse.

FW: I know you guys is bad to tell some stories cause I've heard Bill sit around and tell some stories. Tall tales or not.

INF: Then me and an other guy was hunt one time I think this guy had an old horse it was about ready to die. And he told me that he'd let us hunt, I went to the house and talked to him, and he says well, I'll let you hunt, he says I've got an old horse way back up yonder in the field. And he says it's just like one of the family. It's too old to eat and too old to work and I don't want to kill it. He says I'll let you hunt if you'll kill that old horse up there. A way off from the house. So I went back and told that guy that I guess that fellow said he wasn't to friendly about it but he said we could hunt. So we hunted a pretty good while and didn't see nothing but that old horse. So I told him I said I just think I'll shoot that fellow's old horse. and I just cracked down on it and killed it.

FW: What did your friend say?

INF: Oh, he liked to had a fit he said my God you done killed that man's horse. Don't you tell nobody a beacuse...

FW: Oh, no. Didn't you ever feel bad about it? Did you ever tell him any different?

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INF: No, you don't tell anybody like that.

FW: What kind of things has Bill done? You know any tall tales on

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Bill?

INF: Oh he's a guide Bill is.

FW: A what?

INF: Guide.

FW: A guide.

INF: Yeah.

FW: How is that? What do you mean?

INF: Well him and this Pollock done their shot.

FW: I think I've heard about the Pollock.

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INF: Well he was going to take the Pollock up there and gonna guide him and the guy talked him into buying non-resident license cost him about \$40 dollars. Was going to get him a deer a turkey and a bear and I don't know what all else. Well end up it cost the Pollock ninety dollars and he got one squirrel. In a week.

INF2: No, he killed two squirrels.

INF: Then he killed up two squirrels in a week. One of them he shot it four times and I don't know how many times he shot the other.

FW: He shot a squirrel four times?

INF: Yeah. So then he fired Bill. No more guide. He wants me to be his guide. Wants me to take him up there spring?.

FW: The Pollock must not be all that bright if he let you men guide him.

INF: Well he's one of them Pennsylvania Pollocks. He don't kow too much about these mountain people down here and you can tell him anythig and he don't know the difference.

FW: Like what? I know he's told him some things.

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INF: Well you see they was three Pollocks all dressed like Santa Clause. Three guys and one of them was a Pollock. And you know how you could tell the one that was the Pollock? He was carrying an Easter basket.

FW: Is that how dumb the Pollock is?

INF: That's how dumb he is he had the Easter basket.

FW: Shoot.

INF: But then Bill here he's a regular outlaw, he ain't no hunter he's a outlaw.

FW: An outlaw?

INF: Yes.

FW: Why do you call him an outlaw?

INF: A poacher. Gets out here the season's open year round for him, you set.

FW: Oh. I see.

INF: If he don't get caught. Then cries about how there ain't no game. Trapped all winter for a coon down there on the creek.



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FW: You go trapping a lot? You went trapp today are you?

INF2: Yeah he's trapping today. Tell them about catching the minks.

INF: Oh anybody can catch a mink But he's been wanting me to go down there on the creek with him and help him trap. I don't know whether to waste my time on him or not. But they're not hard to kill.

FW: Well it must have been something special about catching a mink.

INF2: You got to know what you're doing.

FW: Why, what do you do?

INF: Well they're just a little smarter than a muskrat. People catch

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'em and the mink are smarter. Smarter than the guy that's trapped for <unintelligible text> usually.

FW: Well what do you have to do special?

INF: Well, follow them in the snow for about five years and see where they go to when the snow's on the ground. And then you know how to set for them, where to set your trap. Follow them for about five years, year in and year out, you know where they go.

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FW: Don't they smell you?

INF2: Their habits.

INF: Their habits. To kill anything to be successful at killing any kind of game or trapping anything you've got to know their habits. And once you learn their habits everything has a weakness. Even humans. And once you learn their weakness well then you've got them whipped.

INF2: You figure on the average what they're going to do.

INF: What they'll do nine times out of ten. What they'll do. They don't always do what you figured they would.

FW: Well don't they smell you though when you set the trap?

INF: Well you die and wax your trap and you use rubber gloves. You wade the creek with hip boots on, make the trap and then you wash everything off with water after you've set it and there's no scent there for them to smell.

FW: Sounds like a lot of trouble for one mink.

INF: Well if you get enough of them though you've got enough to go turkey hunting on.

INF2: That's what he's doing now, trapping.

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INF: I'd rather go trapping now than go spring gobbler hunting. Down

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here you don't make enough money to go hunting on you have to figure out ways to make money.